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UNCLAS THE HAGUE 002674

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL NL UNSC UNGA

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS: ICJ ELECTIONS

REF: SECSTATE 179062

¶11. (SBU) On October 3, Charge and POLCOUNS met with Hugo Siblesz, Director General of Political Affairs at the MFA, to urge the Dutch to support Judge Thomas Buergenthal's reelection to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), drawing on reftel points. A diplomatic note was presented earlier to the MFA's Office of Protocol. Siblesz told Charge that the Dutch have a long-standing policy of not officially endorsing particular candidates to the ICJ or similar organizations hosted in The Hague. That said, Siblesz noted that the Dutch government nearly always follows the lead of the Dutch National Group in the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which has already expressed its support for Judge Buergenthal's candidacy.

¶12. (SBU) COMMENT: Judge Buergenthal has good relations with, and is highly regarded by, Dutch officials. Post is confident the Dutch will support Judge Buergenthal's candidacy. END COMMENT.

BLAKEMAN